

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10649 121805Z

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10649

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LAST SENTENCE PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IN, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. THE FOLLOWING STORY BY WASHINGTON-BASED INDIAN CORRESPONDENT KRISHAN BHATIA APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 12 DELHI EDITION OF THE HINDUSTAN TIMES:

BEGIN QUOTE: WASHINGTON, AUG. 11 - U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TOLD INDIAN AMBASSADOR T.N. KAUL YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING INDIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER.

DR. KISSINGER ALSO CONVEYED TO MR. KAUL PRESIDENT GERALD FORD'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT V.V. GIRI.

INDIA WAS NOT AMONG THE 57 COUNTRIES WHOSE ENVOYS WERE CALLED TO THE WHITE HOUSE ON FRIDAY AND WHO WERE GREETED BY THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE HIMSELF.

EVEN CHINA WITH WHOM THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE REGULAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS AMONG THE COUNTRIES WHOSE ENVOYS WERE INVITED FOR A MEETING WITH MR. FORD.

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AFTER HIS MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER MR. KAUL TOLD INDIAN REPORTERS THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO MR. GIRI AND PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DELIVERED BY HIM (MR. FORD) PERSONALLY BUT HE COULD NOT DO SO OWING TO HIS PREOCCUPATION ON SATURDAY WITH THE MEETINGS OF HIS CABINET AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: MOST OF NEW DELHI'S SUNDAY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES CARRIED UPI AND AP STORIES ON AMBASSADOR KAUL'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, WHICH CITED OCTOBER AS THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE SECRETARY'S PLANNED VISIT TO INDIA. BHATIA'S PIECE, PRESUMABLY BASED ON INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCES, IS THE ONLY ACCOUNT TO DATE WHICH PINPOINTS THE LAST HALF OF OCTOBER FOR THE VISIT. MOYNIHAN

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